Sass/Scow American Studies

September 27, 2011

“Touching the Skirts of Heaven” by Mary Moore— pages 61-67 in *Wide Open Spaces*

The reading and questions must be completed in class today

Blocks 1/2 and 6/7

**Words to Know**

It’s important to understand the meaning of unfamiliar words so that these terms won’t interfere with your reading of this essay.

**arid** extremely dry

**daunting** causing fear or dismay

**impunity** freedom from punishment

**incessant** unending; continual

**meager (meagre)** deficient; lacking

**monotonous** boringly unchanging

**nomadic** moving from place to place

**Answer the following questions thoroughly and thoughtfully. These are YOUR notes for the final, shared assignment, which is on the back of this page. You will NOT have the book with you when you write the paragraph, so you must have all the information you need in the answers to the questions below.**

1. What were the provisions of the Homestead Act?
2. List the main hardships suffered by pioneers on the prairie.
3. What qualities do you think pioneers needed to make it on the prairie?

**Plan** an 11-sentence paragraph that explains **three reasons** explorers and pioneers had for traveling to the frontier. Think of practical as well as idealistic reasons for leaving home. Remember to write in the **past tense**! Make sure to include vocabulary from the Conquest of the West unit (underline the vocabulary words you use).

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Topic

sentence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Conclusion \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Now that your planning is complete, neatly write or type the 11-sentence paragraph. Make sure to write in the **past tense only** and to **use appropriately** and underline vocabulary words from the unit. Use the scoring guide!

This is a SHARED GRADE (35% summative) worth 25 points.

It is due **Friday, September 30**.

**No late assignments will be accepted**.